

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NEAE-00 OPR-02 A-01

SY-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SCA-01 SAM-01

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

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SUBJECT: BEIRUT EVACUATION JULY 27

REF: A. BEIRUT 6672; B. BEIRUT 6643

1. FOLLOWING INFORMATION FROM EMBASSY BEIRUT PERSONNEL WHO BOARDED CORONADO PROVIDES BACKGROUND ON DEPARTURE COMPLI-
CATIONS OF SOME REGISTRANTS FOR JULY 27 EVACUATION.

2. MRS. CYNTHIA O'CONNELL NOTED ARGUMENT AT BAIN
MILITARY BETWEEN MAN (PRESUMABLY PALESTINIAN OFFICER) AND
WOMAN (LATER IDENTIFIED AS ALICE EL-YOUSSEF). WHEN MAN
WALKED AWAY, MRS O'CONNELL WENT OVER TO ASK WHAT WAS
HAPPENING. MISS EL-YOUSSEF SAID SHE WAS PALESTINIAN AND
"THEY" WOULD NOT LET HER LEAVE. MRS O'CONNELL ADVISED
HER TO KEEP QUIET AND REMAIN IN HOLDING AREA FOR EVACUEES
SOON TO BOARD SHIP. SHE DID NOT HEED ADVICE BUT WALKED
AWAY AND OVER TO MAN WITH WHOM SHE HAD HAD DISPUTE AND
RECOMMENCED ARGUMENT. THIS TIME SEVERAL PLO PERSONNEL
JOINED IN. THEY ANNOUNCED SHE WAS PALESTINIAN AND COULD
NOT DEPART COUNTRY. SHE REFERRED THEM TO CHARLES GLASS
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AT COMMODORE HOTEL WHO WAS SUPPOSED TO VOUCH FOR HER.

SHE WAS TAKEN AWAY TO PLO HEADQUARTERS TO CLARIFY MATTER.

3. FAMILY OF ONE WOMAN AND TWO CHILDREN CARRYING LEBANESE LAISSEZ-PASSER FOR PALESTINIANS AND ACCOMPANIED BY AMCIT SON DID BOARD SHIP. THEY REPORT ONE PALESTINIAN OFFICIAL AT BAIN MILITAIRE CHECKED TRAVEL DOCUMENT AND QUESTIONED THEIR RIGHT DEPART WITHOUT PERMIT FROM PLO BUT MATTER QUICKLY SETTLED AFTER THEY MET ANOTHER PALESTINIAN OFFICIAL WHOM THEY KNEW.

4. ONE JORDANIAN CITIZEN PASSENGER INFORMED CONSULAR OFFICER JULY 28 THAT PLO EXIT PERMIT REQUIREMENT FOR PALESTINIANS HAS BEEN IN EFFECT SINCE JULY 9. PERMITS ARE GRANTED FOR PERSONS WITH SUFFICIENT REASON FOR TRAVEL, E.G. STUDENTS. HE BELIEVES REQUIREMENT APPLIES ONLY TO PALESTINIANS WITH LEBANESE TRAVEL DOCUMENT AND NOT TO JORDANIAN CITIZENS OF PALESTINIAN ORIGIN. HE DID NOT HAVE PERMIT AND ENCOUNTERED NO PROBLEM ON DEPARTURE. ANOTHER JORDANIAN TOLD CONSULAR OFFICER ON SHIP IN ANSWER TO QUESTION THAT NO ONE ASKED TO SEE OR STAMP HIS PASSPORT.

5. ALL LEBANESE REGISTRANTS BOARDED SHIP. WHEN CONSULAR OFFICERS ARRIVED AT BAIN MILITAIRE FROM RIVIERA HOTEL AFTER COMPLETION CHECK-IN PROCESSING, SOME LEBANESE CITIZEN REGISTRANTS REPORTED THAT QUESTION HAD BEEN RAISED BY LEBANESE SURETE OFFICIALS WHO WERE STAMPING EXIT IN LEBANESE PASSPORTS CONCERNING THEIR ELIGIBILITY DEPART VIA BAIN MILITAIRE AS OPPOSED COMMERCIAL SHIPS FROM SIDON OR TYRE. CONSULAR OFFICER MET WITH SENIOR SURETE OFFICIAL ON DUTY AND AFTER EXPLANATION OF BASIS REGISTRATION OF LEBANESE FOR DEPARTURE, PROBLEM WAS PROMPTLY RESOLVED AND EXIT STAMP PLACED IN PASSPORTS. BOTH SURETE AND L.A.A. PERSONNEL WITH WHOM CONSULAR OFFICER DISCUSSED MATTER WERE CO-OPERATIVE AND HELPFUL.

6. ONE LEBANESE TOLD CONSULAR OFFICER ON SHIP THAT SURETE OFFICIAL HAD NOTED IMPRESSION SEAL NOT ADDED TO PHOTO IN HIS PASSPORT. THERE WAS SOME DISCUSSION BUT WHEN OFFICIAL REALIZED HE ACCOMPANYING AMCIT WIFE ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SHIP, EXIT WAS STAMPED IN PASSPORT WITHOUT FURTHER DIFFICULTY.

7. NONE OF REGISTRANTS REPORTED BY REFTTEL A AS HAVING BEEN PREVENTED BY PALESTINIAN AUTHORITIES FROM BOARDING SHIP BROUGHT THEIR PROBLEM TO ATTENTION CONSULAR OFFICERS AS BAIN MILITAIRE.
KUBISCH

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